

The Office of Community Outreach and Partnerships



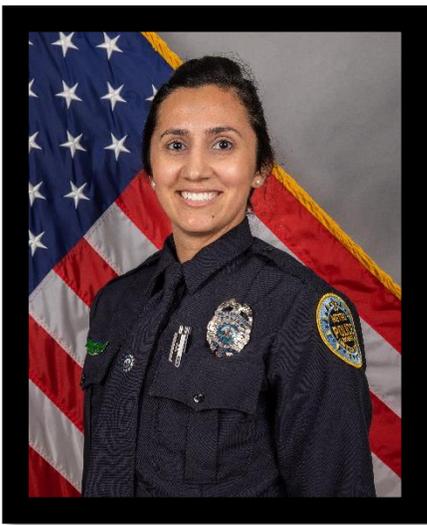
Commander Carlos Lara began his career with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department in 2008. His assignments included serving as a Patrol officer, Flex Unit officer, El Protector Program officer, Case Prep Unit officer, Crime Suppression Unit detective, and Gang Unit detective. After promotion to Sergeant in 2014, he was assigned to the Central Precinct midnight shift and then to the Office of Professional Accountability where he investigated complaints against Department personnel. With a promotion to Lieutenant in 2016, he would serve as the South Precinct midnight shift detail Commander. He was then assigned to the Special Investigations Division's Narcotics Section where he supervised the Narcotics Unit, Interdiction Unit, Major Case Task Force and the DEA Task Force. Also in 2016, Carlos was appointed by the Chief of Police as a temporary Field Supervisor during the weekend and

midnight hours. Carlos was promoted to Captain in 2019 and served as a fulltime Field Supervisor during the overnight hours, providing command level oversight to all department operations. He was subsequently appointed the Chief Community Officer (CCO) in the Chief of Police's office by Chief of Police John Drake. As the CDO, he was tasked with creating the Office of Community Outreach and Partnerships, whose goal is achieving and sustaining gains against crime by strengthening the trust, relationships, and partnerships between the Department and Nashville's many diverse communities and stakeholders. He was also appointed the Department's first liaison to the Metro Nashville Community Oversight Board, where he works closely with the Board's directors and members. In 2021, Carlos was blessed to be promoted to Commander of the Office of Community Outreach and Partnerships, where he currently serves. Carlos holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Trevecca Nazarene University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from the Nashville School of Law. In 2017, Carlos attended the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) at Boston University, which is staffed by instructors from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. In 2018, Carlos completed the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command's ten-week training program. Carlos is a member of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Executive Research Forum and the Hispanic Police Officers Association.



Lieutenant Michelle Coker is a Nashville native by birth who graduated from Maplewood Comprehensive High School holding a Bachelor of Science degree from Trevecca Nazarene University. She has been with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department for over 16 years. During her time with the department, she has worked in various divisions (such as patrol, a Youth Services Investigator, Secondary Employment Unit supervisor) where her passion has always been to service & understand the needs of all Davidson County communities. In December 2014, Michelle Coker was promoted to sergeant where she oversaw the daily duties of her patrol officers on Hermitage Precinct evening shift. In May 2016, she was appointed as the Midtown Hills Precinct Community Affairs Coordinator being the liaison between many diverse residential/business communities, community leaders, and the police precinct educating and addressing

safety matters. In December 2020, she was appointed to oversee the daily duties and responsibilities of the Office of Community Outreach & Partnerships (OCOP) division. This unit was created with the understanding & compassion of servicing the underserved communities within Davidson County. Various communities have connected & continue connecting with the police department through the unit such as the unhoused/veterans, faith-based leaders, Kurdish, Hispanic, Asian, LGBTQ+, MNPS Elementary Schools, etc. Coker was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in September 2021, continuing to oversee the duties and responsibilities of the OCOP unit from the rank of sergeant to officers & civilians. She is a proud mother of one son and 2 dogs. And the wife of an amazing man who also serves as an MNPD supervisor.



I am **Sgt. Nopel Stella** and I became a Metropolitan Nashville Police Officer in 2017. I was born in a Kurdish refugee camp in Turkey, and immigrated to Nashville in 1991. I joined the MNPD because it is my desire to give back to the community and country that has given me and hundreds of other Kurdish families a home. My passion is to also bridge the gap between the Police Department and the Kurdish Community. I am proud to be the first Kurdish American Muslim woman to join the MNPD.



I am **Officer Jeff Ha** and I have been employed with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department for 24 years. In 1980, I came to Nashville, TN as a Vietnamese-Chinese refugee along with my siblings and parents. I attended Nashville public schools and Middle Tennessee State University. As an officer with The Office of Community and Partnerships, I will be working with the Asian community and refugees. I am also proud and humbled to be the first Vietnamese-Chinese American employed with MNPD. Also, I was Mr. Hillsboro High School in 1992!



I am **Officer Charles Embry** and I have been an officer with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department for 14 years. I was born and raised in East Nashville, which is where I lived for 18 years. One of my greatest pleasures has been having the opportunity to work with students, one on one, who struggle with reading and math skills. I have been married for almost 20 years. We have one child and two rescue dogs. My immediate family proudly consists of public servants, including a Metro Nashville Firefighter, a Registered Nurse, and a Metro School Teacher. I am designated as a liaison for North, East, Madison, and Hermitage Precincts and I look forward to this community outreach and assisting my OCOP teammates.



I am **Officer Mark E. Bennett**, a native of El Paso Texas and a member of the MNPD for 31 years. Since I have been in Nashville for so long, I consider this my home. I was asked to come to this unit to share my expertise as a School Liaison for the Office of Community Outreach and Partnerships to help serve the community. My experience in this area consist of teaching, public speaking, conducting workshops, and structured classroom lessons with Pre-K, Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools, and Universities. Working with youth has not only been my passion, but my true ministry throughout my career as an MNPD officer. I am also an International G.R.E.A.T. trainer. I have been blessed to travel to most of all the Central American Countries to teach this program to hundreds of police officers in their respective Countries. I have

helped conduct many different forums to address community issues of concern, and have taught a number of other workshops relating to youth and schooling. I am the father of two sons, a daughter, and ten grandchildren!



I am **Officer Nakia Reid** and I have been a police officer with Metropolitan Nashville Police Department since 2015. I was born in the wonderful state of West Virginia, but raised in Chattanooga, TN. As MNPD's LGBTQ Liaison, I have worked closely with the LGBTQ community to help assist with various issues, events, and to help provide law enforcement resources. As a queer person, I understand the challenges queer people face with living as their authentic self. As a police officer and member of the OCOP, I pride myself in being a resource and a stepping stone while working as a member of a unified community and helping those in need. Public service work started generations ago in my family. I would like to continue, learn, and help others do the same.



Dr. Anita Herron works as both a Faith-based Liaison and a Clinician to create and find healthy perceptions; strengthen relationships secularly and spiritually by embracing the outcomes: peacefully, complete, whole, and safe for the citizens and law enforcement she serves in the Nashville community. Her educational background includes: Master's in Theology and Certificate in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty University Theological Seminary; Doctor of Education in Children and Family Services from Nova Southeastern University; Master of Social Work from Syracuse University; and a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 Mediator listed in Civil, Family and Domestic Violence from Lipscomb University. Dr. Herron serves on various committees in Nashville and teach as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Work at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and Williamson College in the School of Theology. She currently serves as a

volunteer for both the United States Secret Service and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations Chaplain Programs.

